

SENATE RESOLUTION 133

By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to commend Mr. Robert L. Childers for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a judge for the Circuit Court for the 30th Judicial District of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robert L. Childers is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Robert L. Childers is a highly respected member of the Memphis community; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished and proficient scholar, Mr. Childers attended the University of Tennessee at Martin and graduated from the University of Memphis School of Business in 1971 and the University of Memphis School of Law in 1974; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, Mr. Childers entered into a successful career in private practice until 1984, when he was elected to serve as a Circuit Court Judge for the 30th Judicial District of Tennessee at Memphis, and was re-elected to the post in 1990; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his responsibilities to the Circuit Court, Judge Childers has been appointed as a Special Judge for the Tennessee Supreme Court Workers' Compensation Panel, he has served as Presiding Judge of the Thirtieth Judicial District and as the President of the Tennessee Judicial Conference from 1999 to 2000; and

WHEREAS, in order to better serve the people of his court, Judge Childers has attended and completed course work from the National Judicial College and the Tennessee Judicial Conference; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as the presiding judge of Division 9 of the Circuit Court, Judge Childers has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Judge Childers has received numerous accolades and awards for his outstanding public service including the Charles A. Rond Memorial Award for Outstanding Judge of the Year in 1986 and 1999 from the Memphis Bar Association; Judge of the Year for 1990 by the Shelby County Deputy Sheriff's Association; the 1997 Memphis Area Legal Services Corporation and the Memphis Bar Association's Pro Bono Volunteer of the Year Award; and the 2001 Judge Wheatcraft Award by the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to ending violence against women; and

WHEREAS, Judge Childers is also very active in improving the legal profession through his tremendous service through various professional organizations including the Tennessee Trial Judge Association, where he served as a past President. He is the former President, Vice President, Executive Committee Member, and current member of several committees of the Tennessee Judicial Conference, the American Judges Association, the American Judicature Society, American Bar Association-Judicial Division, and the Tennessee Bar Association; he is a founding member of the Leo Bearman, Sr., American Inn of Court, in which he served as the Membership Committee Chairperson and as a member of the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, he has served as a member of Lawyers Helping Lawyers, Inc. since 1987, having served as Chairperson and Vice President; Judge Childers is also a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, a Fellow and former member of the Board of Directors of the Memphis Bar Foundation, a former member of the Board of Directors and the past Chairperson of the 21st Annual Bench/Bar Conference. He is also the past Chairperson of the Judiciary Practice and Procedure Committee and serves as a current member of the Memphis Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, Judge Childers' remarkable leadership abilities were recognized by ABA President Ms. Martha Barnett as she appointed him to the Commission on Lawyers Assistance Programs, where he has served as Commissioner since 2000; also, the Tennessee Supreme Court appointed him to the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program Commission, in which he served as Commissioner in 1999. Judge Childers also lends his invaluable support as a member of the Tennessee Judicial Information System Joint Advisory Committee of Civil Reporting Systems; and

WHEREAS, Robert Childers is an invaluable member of the Memphis Community, diligently serving in several capacities in numerous civic organizations including the Committee on Building Public Trust and Confidence in the Courts, the Memphis Rotary Club, and as a member of the Legal Assistant Technology Advisory Committee at the State Technical Institute at Memphis; he served as the past President of the University of Memphis National Council, as a former member of both the Board of Directors of the University of Memphis School of Law Alumni Association and the University of Memphis Society, and as a former member of the Memphis Junior Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Childers has concentrated his efforts in combating domestic violence in the community with his active membership in several organizations, including his service as a member of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Advisory Committee, as Vice Chairperson of the Executive Committee and as Chairperson of the Court Coordinating Committee for the Tennessee Domestic Violence Council; he has served as the Chairperson, Executive

Committee Member, and as Chairperson of the Court Coordinating Committee for the Shelby County Domestic Violence Council. The Judge is a former member of the Board of Directors for The Exchange Club Family Center of the Mid-South, Inc. and the Family Mediation Center, and he also contributes his time to the Shelby County Government Victims Assistance Center; and

WHEREAS, Judge Childers has also contributed a great deal to the Memphis community through his various legal publications and articles that educate the public and thereby instilling their trust in the judicial system; and

WHEREAS, he has coupled his efforts in educating the public on the judicial system and domestic violence by writing and giving several lectures for schools, churches, and other public forums; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Childers is an acclaimed member of the faculty of the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada Reno; and

WHEREAS, Judge Childers' remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his unswerving reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Robert L. Childers is fortunate to share the love of his daughter; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robert L. Childers is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend Judge Robert L. Childers for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as a judge for

the Circuit Court of the 30th Judicial District of Tennessee and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.